

## **Horse Industry Promotion Referendum A Fact Sheet for Horse Owners**

The Horse Industry Promotion Referendum will be conducted on March 08, 2017. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service has assembled this fact sheet to inform horse owners of North Carolina about the Referendum.

### **General Information**

Q. What is the Horse Industry Promotion Referendum?

A. The Horse Industry Promotion Referendum is a vote by the horse owners of North Carolina as to whether they are willing to continue an assessment of \$4.00 per ton of any commercial feed or supplements labeled for horse use (equivalent to 10 cents per 50 lb. bag).

Q. How was the Horse Industry Promotion Referendum established?

A. The Horse Industry Promotion Referendum was established through House Bill 1529 - The Horse Industry Promotion Bill, which was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly on September 24, 1998.

Q. What is the purpose of the assessment?

A. To provide funds to the North Carolina Horse Council for the purpose of promoting the interests of the North Carolina horse industry.

Q. What is the North Carolina Horse Council?

A. The North Carolina Horse Council (NCHC) is the organization recognized as representing the interests of the horse owners in North Carolina.

Q. How would the assessment be collected?

A. The assessment will be remitted by the feed manufacturer or distributor (not retailer) to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services who will in turn remit all funds collected to the North Carolina Horse Council.

Q. How long would the assessment be in effect?

A. Ten years.

Q. If the referendum passes, is it possible to receive a refund?

A. Yes. The request must be submitted to the North Carolina Horse Council within one year of purchase and must be accompanied by proof of purchase.

## Voting Details

- Date:** Wednesday, March 08, 2017
- Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Polling Places:** County Extension Centers
- Eligibility:** Any North Carolina resident who has complete or partial ownership or lease of an equine (horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny). Individuals must sign a statement of ownership/lease at time of voting.
- Age:** Must have reached 9<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1, 2017.
- Ballot Specifics:** “Yes” indicates a vote in favor of continuing the assessment. “No” indicates a vote against continuing the assessment.
- Absentee Voting:** Opportunity available. Details will be provided at a later date.
- Ownership Challenges:** Opportunity available. Details will be provided at a later date.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How much would the assessment cost me?

A. Approximately \$ 3 per horse per year.

Q. How will the assessment be utilized?

A. The North Carolina Horse Council has identified several areas of intended utilization:

- Promote benefits of horse ownership to the general public.
- Enhance development and delivery of educational programs for horse owners.
- Expand access to trails. Help protect and maintain existing trails.
- Support equine related research.
- Represent the interests of horse owners in the state legislature.

Q. Is the assessment a tax?

A. No. A tax is for the support of a government; the proposed self-assessment is for the interests of horse owners. The assessment is also fully refundable upon written request.

Q. How much revenue will the assessment generate?

A. Based on collections from the first two years of the assessment, annual receipts are approximately \$200,000.

Q. Do any other commodity groups in North Carolina have a similar assessment?

A. Yes. Other commodity groups in North Carolina having a similar, self-assessing system include beef, strawberry, peanuts, soybeans, etc.

Q. Is anyone available to visit my group, club, etc., to provide information about the referendum?

A. Yes. Contact your local County Extension Center. They will put you in touch with a representative from the NC Horse Council.

Q. How can I contact/find out more about the North Carolina Horse Council?

A. Additional information regarding the North Carolina Horse Council may be obtained by contacting:

North Carolina Horse Council  
P.O. Box 12999  
Raleigh, NC 27605-2999  
919/854-1990 (phone)  
919/854-1989 (Fax)  
[www.nchorsecouncil.com](http://www.nchorsecouncil.com)

Q. How can I obtain a copy of HB 1529 - The Horse Industry Promotion Bill?

A. A copy of HB 1529 may be obtained from your local County Extension Center.

Q. What reports or fees will the feed retailer be required to submit?

A. No reports, no fees.